

CD-ROM Test Reports Available

Do you want to read a paper test report or take a virtual tour of the test? The U.S. Army Operational Test Command (OTC) Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate (ABNSOTD) at Fort Bragg, NC, provides the plan, the report, and other associated test documentation on a CD to its customers. The ultimate product is called a CD-ROM Test Report, and the first one was produced in January 2001.

The final production is a multimedia presentation that includes documents, images, videos, music, and well-thought-out hyperlinks. Also included with the CD-ROM is the software necessary to view, print, and navigate the various documents or key information associated with each project. This format not only tells the story of the test, but also provides supporting documents and images that were not included in the report.

CD-ROM publishing is the most efficient way to organize all the files about one project in one convenient package. All the documents relating to each test are easily accessible, whether the customer needs to print a document, copy and paste text or graphics, or perform a search using keywords. The search link, included on the CD, will generate a list of all the documents that contain the keywords or phrases that the user specifies. For example, if users do not know the exact file name, but they know some keywords that might be included in the document, all they need to do is use the search option conveniently located at the main menu. The search feature is just one of the user-friendly tools that are included on the CD. The following paragraphs address some of the other features of this multimedia report.

Instead of wondering how to open the CD, it is set to automatically run once it is placed into the CD drive. The autorun is linked to a welcome screen that automatically accesses the proper files, loads them, and starts the main menu.

The main menu is the remote control or the browser page that enables users to go to a preferred location on the CD. The main menu is designed specifically for each project. There is no guesswork involved; the main menu and sub-menus consist of buttons for viewing or printing documents and photographs and playing videos. Bookmarks or hyperlinks also make it easy for the user to navigate through the documents.

The hyperlinked photographs and video selections are intended to show the user any problems or damages encountered during a test as well as many of the typical events. The executive summary video, with voice-over narration by the test officer, tells the story of the major events of the test. Other photographs that relate to the test but are not included in the test report are easily accessible from the same CD. Also included is a video that shows the testing capabilities of ABNSOTD. From the airdrop of personnel, heavy equipment, and cargo, to the operational field testing of new weapons, equipment, and techniques, this unique organization ensures that soldiers can get to where they have to go—and fight and win once there.

Forward thinking has allowed ABNSOTD to produce a dynamic CD-ROM test report that incorporates interactive photography and video in a manner that enhances test documentation, thus making it more useful to our customers. So, before you read the paper copy of our test reports, take a virtual tour of the test instead.

This article was submitted by Nora Campbell, Chief of the Editorial Branch, ABNSOTD. For further information about the CD-ROM Test Report, contact her at (910) 396-2613, DSN 236-2613, or at campbellnora@otc.army.mil.

Natick Leads Individual Soldier Transformation Effort

As the Army continues its transformation to the Objective Force for 2020 and beyond, the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM) Natick Soldier Center (NSC) is taking the lead in an effort to transform the individual soldier.

With a substantial influx of research and development funding, the Objective Force Warrior (OFW) Program will be the Army's flagship program to develop a revolutionary warrior concept and will serve as an Objective Force transformation pillar next to the Future Combat Systems (FCS). The program began in October 2001 with competing industrial teams developing concepts for a revolutionary future warrior. The program will conclude in September 2008 with system-level demonstrations of up to two competing designs. A contract solicitation package is currently being developed and should be released in the December 2001 timeframe.

Using the Army's soon-to-be-fielded Land Warrior as a baseline and point of departure, the OFW Program will develop revolutionary advances in soldier lethality, individual survivability, communication, power sources, soldier mobility and sustainability, and human performance. Early and continuous integration of all system and subsystem components will be the key to the success of the OFW Program.

By employing a contracting approach similar to that being used for the FCS, the Army will award competing integration contracts/agreements to industry teams. These teams will be charged with developing a warfighter concept by leveraging ongoing Army, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and other DOD science and technology investments, and by introducing the latest commercial technologies.

The Army is also seeking to entice "nontraditional" industrial players into the program as well. To attract these nontraditionals, Natick will employ a new contracting/agreements approach that cuts red tape and makes it easier for companies to do business with the government.

For more information about NSC or SBCCOM, see the Web site at <http://www.sbccom.army.mil>.

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